

Proposed Three Bridges Station forecourt works – Have your say



Introduction

Crawley Borough Council, West Sussex County Council and Southern would like to inform you about proposed changes to the Three Bridges Station forecourt and some of the area around the station.

We jointly invite you to tell us what you think about the proposed changes. The consultation will run until Friday 5 December.

Funding from planning agreements has been received, which must be spent on interchange improvements at the station.



Why are these proposals being suggested?

As part of the planning permission for the development of the maintenance depot and operations centre at Three Bridges Station, there was a requirement in a legal agreement for the developers, Network Rail, to make a contribution towards improving access to the station. The money cannot be used on anything else and if it is not used within an agreed period of time it will be handed back to Network Rail.

The changes within the consultation are proposed to improve safety and access to the station. To meet the demands of the station and the surrounding areas, draft plans have been developed for better access for taxis, pedestrians, buses, cyclists and cars. Vehicular access will have to change if these improvements are to be made.

How long will the consultation run for?

The consultation will run from 10 November to 5 December. There will be an opportunity to meet and discuss the plans with representatives from Crawley Borough Council, West Sussex County Council and Southern on:

- Tuesday 18 November from 6-7pm at Crawley Library (before the East Crawley County Local Committee meeting)
- Wednesday 19 November from 5-7pm at Three Bridges Station
- Saturday 22 November from 10am-2pm at Crawley Library
- Wednesday 26 November from 10am-2pm at County Mall
- Thursday 27 November from 6-8pm at County Mall
- Saturday 29 November from 10am-12 noon at Three Bridges Station.

What happens after the consultation?

The views will be considered by Crawley Borough Council, West Sussex County Council and Southern, with a view to incorporating comments and suggestions into a more detailed design of the proposed improvement works. It is hoped work will start in 2016.

How do I take part?

You can visit one of six exhibitions this month (see opposite page), fill out a survey online at www.crawley.gov.uk/rail or pick up a paper survey from Three Bridges Station or the Town Hall, located on The Boulevard, Crawley. Alternatively, scan the QR code (below) on your smartphone if you have one.



Creation of eastern access to Three Bridges Station from Station Hill

Plans for a new passenger access to platform 5 are underway, using funding from the Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership.

A It will be located east of the station, on Station Hill. It will feature:

- A ticket barrier and ticket machine
- Additional cycle racks
- A small drop-off/pick-up bay for five/six cars.

It is anticipated that work will begin in 2015/16 and take approximately four months to complete.

This access can be implemented irrespective of whichever option for the front of the station is taken forward.

What is being proposed?

Option one

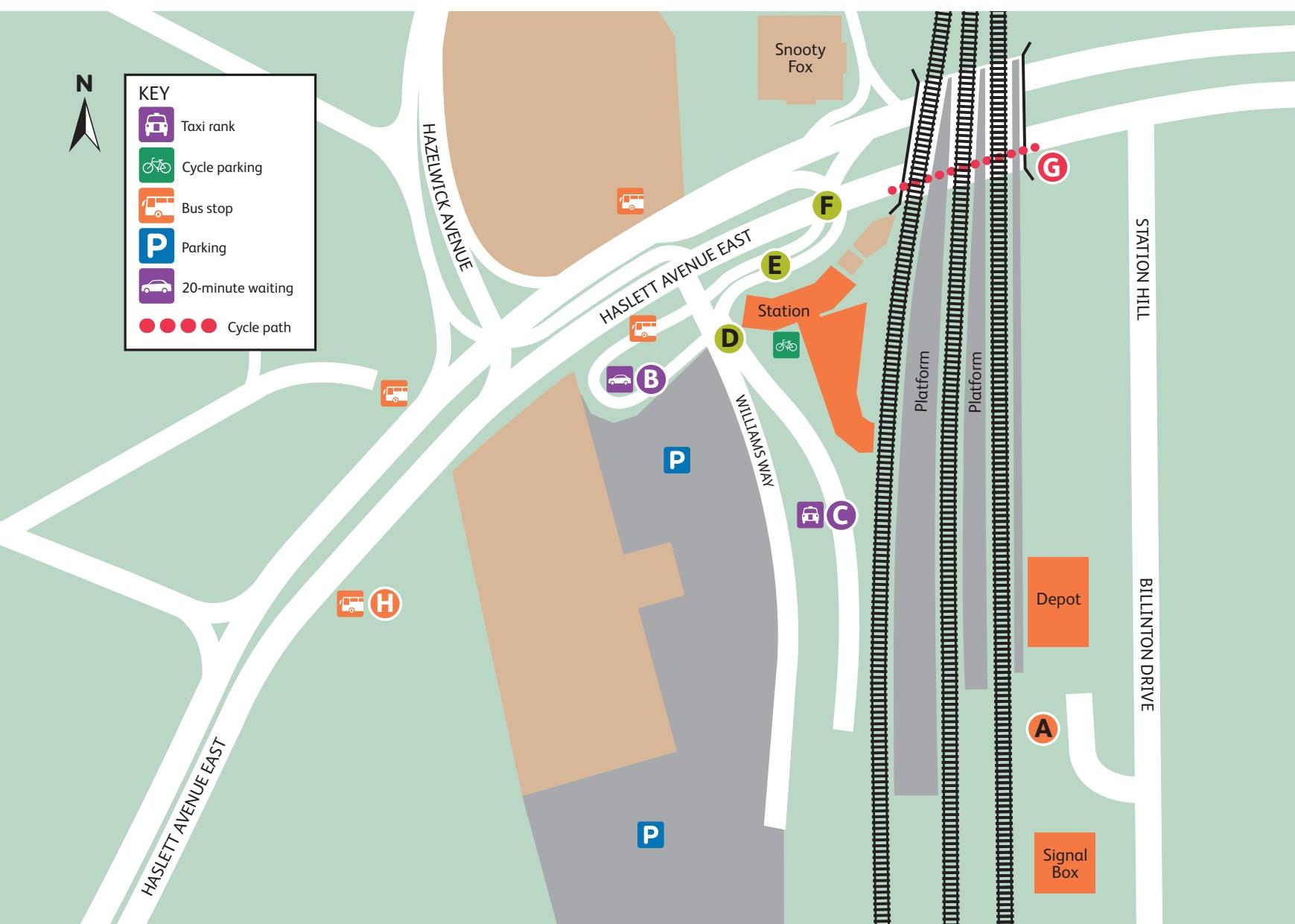
Option one will bring forward changes that will impact how people use buses, taxis and cars and walk in and around the station area.

Proposed changes for taxis and pick-up/drop-off point

- B** The current taxi drop-off area will become a dedicated 20-minute drop-off/pick-up point for cars.
- C** Taxis will have a new dedicated pick-up/drop-off point to the side of the station; increasing the number of licenced taxis from eight to 18 spaces approximately.

Proposed changes for pedestrians and cyclists

- D** A new pedestrian route will allow safer access to the bus stop (adjacent to the station) and the pick-up/drop-off point.
- E** A pedestrian area in front of the station will improve access.
- F** The pedestrian crossing outside the station will be realigned to reduce the number of roads that need to be crossed.
- G** The footway on the station side of the road (underneath the bridge) will be widened and become a shared footpath and cycle lane. The cycle lane will link to new and existing cycle routes.
- H** The bus stop is removed under option one.



| Advantages | Disadvantages | Improvements to alleviate disadvantages |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Improved area at the front of the station for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users with safe access maintained to the passenger car park.</p> <p>Improved pedestrian route allowing pedestrians to easily access the bus stop in front of the station.</p> <p>The Fastway number 20 is able to stop at the same place as all other existing bus services with improved waiting facilities.</p> <p>Pedestrian crossing to the east moved closer to the station forecourt to reduce the number of crossings.</p> <p>Taxi facilities relocated to the side of the station, close to the side entrance to the platform subway.</p> <p>There is more space for the pick-up and drop-off area for passengers.</p> <p>Improved facilities for cyclists, better connectivity to local routes including a proposed route on Worth Park Avenue.</p> <p>This option maximises the benefits of a new Station Hill entrance.</p> <p>The removal of the right turn will reduce delays for cars because there will be no stop sequence in either direction.</p> <p>Traffic lights will be reconfigured and the new eastern access on Station Hill will improve traffic flow.</p> | <p>In order to achieve the changes for G a traffic lane will be removed.</p> <p>There will not be a right turn out of the station.</p> | <p>Traffic lights will be reconfigured to improve traffic flow on the surrounding roads.</p> <p>From the station, several alternative routes are available and can be found here: www.crawley.gov.uk/rail</p> |

Option two

Option two will bring forward changes that will impact how people use cars and taxis in and around the station. There will be no change to the existing entrance and exit out of the station.

Changes for taxis and pick-up/drop-off point

- The current taxi drop-off area will become a dedicated pick-up/drop-off point for cars.
- Taxis will have a new dedicated pick-up/drop-off point to the side of the station; increasing the number of taxis from eight to 18 spaces approximately.
- The bus stop will remain in the same place under option two.

| Advantages | Disadvantages | Improvements to alleviate disadvantages |
|---|--|---|
| Taxi facilities relocated to the side of the station close to the entrance to the station subway. Pick-up/drop-off area will be available for passengers being dropped off or picked up by family or friends. No restrictions on turning movements. | There are no improvements for cyclists, bus users or safety improvements on the forecourt in front of the station caused by traffic moving in different directions. The bus stop for Fastway service 20 remains further along Haslett Avenue East. Some of the money from Network Rail will be given back so will not be used for access and safety improvements at the station. | Traffic lights will be reconfigured to improve traffic flow on the surrounding roads. |

Anticipated timescales

February 2015 – A decision will be taken by Crawley Borough Council’s Cabinet on which option will be funded.

The next phases of the project will involve preparing a detailed design, obtaining appropriate consents and appointing a contractor. Work could start in 2016. Depending on which option is selected, changes will be completed in phases to minimise disruption. Work could take between six and 12 months.

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